

House File 2045 - Introduced

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BY KAUFMANN

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to Montessori programs, including practitioner
2 preparation, licensing, and nontraditional preparation
3 options.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 237A.12, subsection 1, paragraph e, Code
2 2014, is amended to read as follows:

3 e. Programs for education and in-service training of staff.
4 The rules shall prescribe standards and procedures for the
5 approval of training organizations located within or outside
6 of this state that offer Montessori certification programs
7 that are accredited by a regionally or nationally recognized
8 nonprofit Montessori accrediting agency.

9 Sec. 2. Section 256.11, subsection 16, paragraph a, Code
10 2014, is amended to read as follows:

11 a. Notwithstanding subsections 1 through 12, a nonpublic
12 school may be accredited by an approved independent accrediting
13 agency instead of by the state board as provided in this
14 subsection. The state board shall maintain a list of approved
15 independent accrediting agencies comprised of at least ~~six~~
16 seven regional or national nonprofit, nongovernmental agencies
17 recognized as reliable authorities concerning the quality of
18 education offered by a school and shall publish the list of
19 independent accrediting agencies on the department's internet
20 site. The list shall include accrediting agencies that, as of
21 January 1, 2013, accredited a nonpublic school in this state
22 that was concurrently accredited under this section; and any an
23 agency that has a formalized partnership agreement with another
24 agency on the list and has member schools in this state as of
25 January 1, 2013. The list shall also include a Montessori
26 accrediting agency.

27 Sec. 3. Section 272.2, subsection 13, Code 2014, is amended
28 to read as follows:

29 13. Adopt rules to provide for nontraditional preparation
30 options for licensing persons who hold a bachelor's degree from
31 an accredited college or university, who do not meet other
32 requirements for licensure. The rules shall include an option
33 for nontraditional preparation to qualify for a Montessori
34 endorsement.

35 Sec. 4. Section 272.2, Code 2014, is amended by adding the

1 following new subsection:

2 NEW SUBSECTION. 19. Adopt criteria for Montessori
3 education program practitioner endorsements.

4 EXPLANATION

5 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
6 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

7 This bill relates to Montessori education programs,
8 practitioner preparation for teaching using the Montessori
9 approach, licensing of Montessori programs and practitioners,
10 and nontraditional Montessori practitioner preparation options.

11 The Code directs the department of human services to adopt
12 rules setting minimum standards to provide quality child care
13 in child care centers and registered child development homes
14 relating to programs for education and in-service training of
15 staff. The bill adds that the department must adopt rules
16 prescribing standards and procedures for the approval of
17 training organizations that offer Montessori certification
18 programs that are accredited by a regionally or nationally
19 recognized nonprofit Montessori accrediting agency.

20 The bill increases, from six to seven, the number of
21 approved independent accrediting agencies that may accredit
22 nonpublic schools in lieu of accreditation by the state
23 board of education. The bill provides that one of the seven
24 approved independent accrediting agencies must be a Montessori
25 accrediting agency.

26 The Code requires the board of educational examiners to
27 adopt criteria for Montessori education program practitioner
28 endorsements. The Code requires the board to adopt rules to
29 provide for nontraditional preparation options for licensing
30 persons who hold a bachelor's degree from an accredited
31 college or university who do not meet other requirements for
32 licensure. Under the bill, those rules must include an option
33 for nontraditional preparation to qualify for a Montessori
34 endorsement.